

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims without prejudice as follows:

53. (Currently amended) A method of processing laundry which comprises the steps of:
 - (a) washing a first load of laundry with a detergent in at least one wash vessel to produce a first clean load of laundry and a first wash effluent;
 - (b) passing the first wash effluent through at least one wash filter, producing a first wash permeate and a first wash retentate and allowing the first wash permeate to be returned to the at least one wash vessel to establish a wash loop; and
 - (c) rinsing the first clean load of laundry to produce a first rinsed load of laundry and a first rinse effluent, and allowing at least a portion of the first rinse effluent to be returned to the at least one wash vessel to establish a rinse loop, the rinse loop being an independent flow path from the wash loop.
54. (Original) The method of Claim 53 which further comprises the steps of:
 - (d) washing a second load of laundry using in part at least a portion of the first wash permeate in the at least one wash vessel to produce a second clean load of laundry and a second wash effluent;
 - (e) passing the second wash effluent through the at least one wash filter, producing a second wash permeate and a second wash retentate; and
 - (f) rinsing the second clean load of laundry to produce a second rinsed load of laundry and a second rinse effluent.
55. (Currently amended) The method of claim 53 which further comprises the step of:
 - (d) passing at least a portion of the first rinse effluent through at least one rinse filter to produce a first rinse permeate and a first rinse retentate and allowing at least a portion of the first rinse permeate to be returned to the at least one wash vessel.
56. (Original) The method of claim 54 which further comprises the step of:

- (g) passing at least a portion of the second rinse effluent through the at least one rinse filter to produce a second rinse permeate and a second rinse retentate.
- 57. (Original) The method of Claim 54 wherein Step (f) is accomplished in part by using at least a portion of the first rinse permeate.
- 58. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 53 which further comprises the steps of:
 - (d) passing the first rinse effluent through at least one rinse filter, producing a first rinse permeate and a first rinse retentate;
 - (e) washing a second load of laundry with the detergent and in part at least a portion of the first wash permeate in the at least one wash vessel to produce a second clean load of laundry and a second wash effluent;
 - (f) passing the second wash effluent through the at least one wash filter, producing a second wash permeate and a second wash retentate;
 - (g) rinsing the second clean load of laundry with in part at least a portion of the first rinse permeate to produce a second rinsed load of laundry and a second rinse effluent; and
 - (h) passing the second rinse effluent through the at least one rinse filter to produce a second rinse permeate and a second rinse retentate.
- 59. (Original) The method of Claim 54 wherein between about 30% and about 90% of the washing in Step (d) is accomplished with first wash permeate.
- 60. (Original) The method of Claim 57 wherein between about 30% and about 90% of the rinsing in Step (f) is accomplished with first rinse permeate.
- 61. (Original) The method of Claim 58 wherein between about 30% and about 90% of the washing in Step (e) is accomplished with first wash permeate and between about 30% and about 90% of the rinsing in Step (g) is accomplished with first rinse permeate.
- 62. (Original) The method of Claim 55 which further comprises the step of:
 - (e) transferring at least a portion of the first rinse retentate to the first wash effluent.
- 63. (Original) The method of Claim 56 which further comprises the step of:

- (h) transferring at least a portion of the second rinse retentate to the second wash effluent.
- 64. (Original) The method of Claim 53 which further comprises the step of repeating Steps (c)-(h) at least once on additional loads of laundry.
- 65. (Original) The method of Claim 64 wherein up to about nine loads of laundry are processed.
- 66. (Original) The method of Claim 53 wherein the method is steady state.
- 67. (Original) The method of Claim 64 wherein the method is steady state.
- 68. (Original) The method of Claim 53 which further comprises the steps of:
 - (d) passing a previous rinse effluent through at least one rinse filter, producing a previous rinse permeate and a previous rinse retentate;
 - (e) washing a subsequent load of laundry with the detergent and in part at least a portion of a previous wash permeate in the at least one wash vessel to produce a subsequent clean load of laundry and a subsequent wash effluent;
 - (f) passing the subsequent wash effluent through the at least one wash filter, producing a subsequent wash permeate and a subsequent wash retentate; and
 - (g) rinsing the subsequent clean load of laundry with in part at least a portion of the previous rinse permeate to produce a subsequent rinsed load of laundry and a subsequent rinse effluent;
 - (h) repeating Steps (d)-(g) at least once;wherein the previous rinse effluent is the second rinse effluent prior to Step (h) and the previous wash permeate is the first wash permeate prior to Step (h).
- 69. (Original) The method of Claim 66 wherein up to about nine loads of laundry are processed.
- 70. (Original) The method of Claim 68 wherein the method is steady state.

71. (New) The method of claim 53, which further comprises establishing a flow path between the rinse effluent and the wash effluent and allowing a portion of the rinse effluent to be transferred to the wash effluent.

72. (New) A method of processing laundry which comprises the steps of:

- (a) washing a load of laundry with a detergent in at least one wash vessel to produce a clean load of laundry and a wash effluent;
- (b) passing the wash effluent through at least one wash filter, producing a wash permeate and a wash retentate and allowing the wash permeate to be returned to the at least one wash vessel to establish a wash loop;
- (c) rinsing the clean load of laundry to produce a rinsed load of laundry and a rinse effluent, and
- (d) passing the rinse effluent through at least one rinse filter, producing a rinse permeate and a rinse retentate, and allowing the rinse permeate to be returned to the at least one wash vessel to establish a rinse loop, the rinse loop being an independent flow path from the wash loop.

73. (New) The method of claim 72, which further comprises establishing a flow path between the rinse effluent and the wash effluent and allowing a portion of the rinse effluent to be transferred to the wash effluent.